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**NEW HARMONY** – Rolaine King (Additional information to be added to the December 2009 Minutes)

We had a Founders' Day with a fund raising dinner and native American speaker planned for the usual Saturday of Labor Day weekend but just prior to the day the wilderness managed fire became unmanageable and came roaring down the mountain as resident Dellas Imlay said, a ball of fire. We had to cancel Founders' Day as the inferno raged on and on, burning one canyon after another for days. It went straight to the Big Pine and burned it the first day.

The big Pine Tree had just been nominated as a Utah State heritage tree. The tree has family heritage memories for the Redd and Lee families whose forebears left it standing rather than cut the tree so near the farm for lumber. The tree so impressed Emma Lee as a new bride that she wished to have her home by it. She didn't get that wish but her home was within abt a quarter mile of it. The Redds had a family story of a debris flow from a landslide dam caused by a 6-week rain breaking and sending boulders, mud, trees booming down the stream towards their farm. So our loss is theirs. The good news is that the bottom 2/3 of the tree still stands and a new baby Big Pine has been planted thanks to Kevin Jorgensen who made New Harmony a tree city USA and Julie Woods, HV fire association, getting a grant.

A nature park that Ameri corps had spent weeks making trails and fences on leased BLM land was burned. The trees other than Baby Big Pine went to start revuvenation of the moonscape left by the raging inferno the Forest Service called : "Extreme Fire Behavior".

The other icon that we had thought would span the generations, the snowflowers of early spring on Lawson Hill were spaared but the pristine, no-path mountain to the west that we had thought would provide seeds for reseediing Lawson Hill if ever needed was moonscaped by the fire.

Our plans for this year is to do a reassessment of what direction we want to take as an organization and regroup. If people are up to the work and care to we may have a three day town reunion at Founders and the info center at the cemetery may get finished. New Harmony does not have a Town Hall or other centralized place for info center and most visitors that would be interested come to the cemetery.

Maybe just the above, Lyman? If too verbose maybe just highlight and tell the points that might have meaning? Thanks for doing this.

The State Museum contact that came last fall had encouraging things to say and we will work on accumulating more pictures and stories of the town. Dad, Sheldon Grant, in his book, gave a good start to making our history available and it would be a goal to get it and the Book edited by Kay Daun Edwards to be sold in the town Hall or City offices--if we had city offices. We are playing a catch-up game.

One human interest note from the fire that those who have ties to small rural Utah towns may appreciate is that of the two house completely burned, one was a million-dollar home owned by a Las Vegas resident who immediately began cleaning for the rebuild..

And one a little hut type abode in the trees built by a nature lover who had spent days on the nature park. It was uninsured. Their neighbor swith a singed house took them in. The community came together to help replace their belongings and someone donated them a cabin they had gotten from Zion, and people helped make it liveable--just like in days of old. Being small has that grace.